



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY NEWS RELEASE

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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\$50,000 Settlement Reached with the City of Oakland

Oakland --- The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) today announced it has reached a settlement with the City of Oakland for hazardous waste code violations by the Oakland Fire Department (OFD).

"No entity should consider itself exempt from properly managing hazardous waste," said Timothy Swickard, DTSC Director. "Since the violations revealed have been corrected it is our hope that other fire departments can learn about hazardous waste safety awareness through the Supplement Environmental Project, that is part of this settlement," Swickard added.

Under terms of the Consent Judgment (Judgment), approved on July 1, 2005, the City of Oakland will pay a total of \$50,000 to DTSC in civil penalties, of which \$20,000 are eligible for offset through a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP). The SEP actually has two parts to aid other local fire departments and smaller regulated hazardous waste generators through training and workshops.

The first will train other fire departments' staff as trainers so they can, in turn, conduct their own in-house training for their colleagues in Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER). HAZWOPER training is mandatory for first responders to hazardous waste incidents to enable them to execute their missions safely and effectively. The City of Oakland will conduct these "train the trainer" sessions at hazardous materials and environmental health conferences throughout the state, at no cost to the attending fire department.

The second program consists of workshops to educate regulated small quantity generators of hazardous waste requirements to improve both safety and awareness.

A copy of the Judgment formalizing the settlement is available on the DTSC website at http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/HazardousWaste/Oakland_Fire_Dept/Index.html

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The settlement stems from violations observed by DTSC inspectors during an October 6, 2003 inspection at Oakland Fire Station #3 located at 1445 14th Street, Oakland. The inspection revealed the following violations:

- Storage of hazardous waste in leaking containers
- Storage of ignitable hazardous waste less than 50 feet from the property line
- Failure to inspect storage site for discharges
- Failure to separate incompatible wastes
- Storage of hazardous waste for greater than 90 days without permit or authorization from DTSC
- Transportation of hazardous waste with the City of Oakland without valid registration or variance from DTSC
- Failure to train employees and to document training
- Failure to maintain required documents and records at facility

The OFD and the City of Oakland have corrected all violations noted in the Judgment.

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The Department of Toxic Substances Control's mission is to restore, protect, and enhance the environment and ensure public health, environmental quality and economic vitality by regulating hazardous waste, conducting and overseeing cleanups, and developing and promoting pollution prevention.